JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM

LABDHI BAAL VAARTA

Series

Part - 10



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PUBLISHERS NOTE

"LABDHI BAAL VAARTA" are wonderful short stories collected from various sources which were in different languages. We are grateful to all those authors. Specially YashovarmSurijee, *Muni* ChandraSurijee and Shailesh Sagparia. Our appreciation to Poojya Acharya Sri RajYashSooreeshwarjee M.S. and his disciple Upadhyaya VishrutyashVijayaji Gani (Prof. M.S.), Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd. for assisting in compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

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FOREWORD

DOES RE-BIRTH EXIST ?

Now-a-days children want to know everything with logic. If we tell them anything to do, they will ask, why ? So, if we give them hundreds of examples which happened with law of cause and effects like why Sita kidnapped by Ravan ? Why Draupadi married five husbands ? They will understand the matter and will do accordingly. So to bring them on the right path it is the easiest way. What one gives that only one receives. This is the Law of Nature. The western authors also like Arther C. Klarke and Dr. Brian Weiss have given many examples which prove the existence of soul. Here lots of examples are given of many historical characters by refering to the scriptures. (in Part 4). So if one wants to achieve good he will surely do good in this birth. I hope this book will surely make one walk on the right path i.e. right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which is the way to salvation.

Dr. M. M. Begani, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
12th July 2019

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THE AUTHOR

Acharyadev Shri. RajyashSooreeshwarjee *Maharaj*, exponent of discourses, visionary and promoter of renovation of various temples, the epitome of renunciation and great preacher is blessed by Shri. LabdhiSooreeshwarjee *M.S.* & Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee *M.S.*, his Grand *Guruji* & *Guruji* respectively. Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee, his *Gurudev* was very effective in attracting people towards the virtues of Jainism. He was a worshipper of 'BHAKTAMAR MAHASTOTRA', the practitioner of high standards of sadhana, and was a very simpleminded soul.

The author, Shri RajyashSooreeshwarjee, a highly dedicated, courteous disciple of his *Guru* and lucky enough to serve, care, worship incessantly to such a great Guru. Being a great personality, his bright and exalted oratory attracts people at the very first instance. Infact, a few seconds in his auspicious company, confers profound happiness and satisfaction. He is deeply involved in various rites, rituals, disciplines & yet very compassionate towards everyone. He has a heart, very simple like a child and delicate like a flower.

He has suggested many new ways for the propagation of Jainism. It is the outcome of his magnetic personality, that the renovation of temples at Bharuch, Kulpak, Uvasaggaharam, Banaras (Birth Kalyanak Place of Lord Parshwanath), Godi Parshwa-Padmavati at Prerna Teerth, Ahmedabad, Simandhar Swami and Jagvallabh Parshwanath at Vadachowta, Surat and Vanachara near Baroda. Also new teerth at Navkar Dham,

Palitana and Sankheshwara Parshwanath at Richmond, U.S.A. are being established under his guidelines were made possible. He organised JAINFAIR at Chennai, in 1999 which was an epoch making event.

Thus in Part 1 to 6 [264 stories] & in Part 7-8-9 [185] stories were given now in Part 10-11-12 [163 stories] are being published.

Note : for details, refer book "5 Glorious Acharyas".

- Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijaya Gani

Dt. 30.7.2019 Ahmedabad

❁

Pujya Maharajsaheb has done a really great work by compiling numerous short stories in the form of Labdhi Baal Vaarta. The stories are engaging and full of morals. The best part is that these stories have been written in English language to reach-out to children, as English is now more widespread amongst children. This is akin to our 24th *Teerthankar* Shree Mahaveer Swami who used to give His *deshna* (sermons) in *Prakrit / Ardha Magadhi* language so that everybody could understand, as it was common parlance of the masses at that time (instead of Sanskrit which was only used by a very few learned people / scholars and the common people never understood it).

I feel really blessed to have come across this amazing compilation done by *Pujya Maharajsaheb*.

C.A. Satvik Mardia

Ahmedabad-14th August, 2019

❁

Wedding Gift

1



A calamity can also become a boon. To believe this, one should read about the following incident :-

A disastrous fire destroyed fodder worth rupees forty lakhs in the cattle-house of a town called Leench in Gujarat. A bridegroom came as an answer to the dumb animals' misery. He handed all the gift money he had received on his wedding to the cattle house. The bridegroom said that he had fed the wedding guests, then how could he ignore the hunger pangs of the dumb animals. The bridegroom's act set off a chain reaction. Then on, the gift money received on every wedding in Leench is donated to the cattle-house.

Moral :- Let us be the ones to lead others in doing benevolent deeds.

2



Correct Upbringing

This is the story of a billionaire's daughter, residing in the posh area of Walkeshwar, Mumbai. Her lifestyle sets her apart from her peers who have adopted the Western culture. She has been following her religious rituals and even doing one kind of fast or the other right from her childhood. She doesn't have the hedonistic attitude of today's generation. Today boys and girls believe in enjoying life and think that this enjoyment is in materialistic pleasures. T.V., video, cell phones, internet, bikes, restaurants, pubs, discotheques and fashionable branded clothes have become status symbols but she doesn't indulge in these vices.

Moral :- Upbringing dictates whether the children will rise up the ladder of virtues or fall into the valley of vices.

❁

No Disturbance In Worship

3



A Jain businessman of Surat went for worship to the Jain Temple from 9 AM to 11 AM every morning. In his absence, his chief accountant handled the business. One day, the accountant did not finalise a good deal because he first wanted his employer's consent. When the accountant conveyed this to the businessman, he decided that from next day they would open the office at 11 AM. Although the bussinessman would lose out on good deals, he took that decision because he did not want to be disturbed by thoughts of business while he was in the temple. There was a possibility that he might worry whether he had missed a good deal. This would harm his soul and lead to his downfall.

Moral :- Understand your priorities. The profits of worship are more than anything else.

4 No Discrimination In Faith



This incident occurred in a village of Akola District in Maharashtra.

A monk fell into a pit of faeces outside the village. A crowd gathered but no one was ready to help. When a Jain monk was given the news, he rushed there and helped the monk, without caring about the repulsive faeces or the foul smell. The monk was brought to the Jain monastery where the Jain monk helped him to clean up and washed the monk's clothes himself. All the Jain monks in the monastery showered so much care that the monk was moved to tears.

The Jain monk was Shree Veersensurijee. He belonged to the clan of *Acharya* Labdhisurijee. **Shree Veersensurijee** was an epitome of virtues, a brilliant orator and an immensely blessed saint.

Moral :- Saints show us the right path of life. Serve all saints without any discrimination.

Incomparable Resolve

5



Sheth Jesing of Ahmedabad had taken a vow to do *'Paushadh'* on the fifth day of every lunar month. His resolution was put to test. His son's wedding was fixed for the fifth day of a particular lunar month. Sheth Jesing conveyed his resolve to fulfil his vow and also did not allow the wedding to be postponed, arguing that in case he had been dead, the family would not have let his son remain a bachelor. Sheth Jesing neither attended the wedding nor he was tempted to see the wedding procession when it passed by the Jain monastery where he was doing *'Paushadh'.*

Sheth Jesing eventually embraced monkhood. He was none other than the great Jain monk **Acharya Yashodevsurijee** who had chanted the holy *Navkar Mantra* 36 crore times.

Moral :- *Acharyashree's* exemplary resolve inspire us to not break or bend our vows for any reason.

6 Little Light Is Enough



The sun had set. A traveller was standing on a forest trail with a lantern in his hand. A man from a nearby hut asked, "Who are you waiting for ?"

The traveller replied, "No one. I am in trouble. I want to go to the next village but it is too dark."

The man said, "But you have a lantern." The traveller responded, "Yes. But the lantern lights up a very short span of the path and the forest ahead is big, dense and dark."

The man remarked amusedly, "Just start walking. The light of the lantern will keep moving forward with you and light up the path in front of you."

Moral :- Difficulties test the strength of your desires. Never lose hope. Little light is enough to dispel darkness.

Give Aid , Not Advice

7



On their way to Bharuch *Teerth* near Surat, *Poojya* ***Acharya*** **Yashovarmasurijee** and his disciples arrived at a Jain monastery in a village. A young man was cleaning the monastery. He paid obeisance to the Jain monks and said that he even had knowledge of two *Pratikraman*. *Acharyashree*, who had first thought that he was a non-Jain, was surprised to know that he was a Jain and wanted to know why he was working at the monastery and how much he earned. The youth said that from his job at the monastery, he earned Rs.750 p.m. and he sold snacks to supplement his income. He said that much was enough to support himself, his father and his younger brother.

What the youth said next shook the monks to the core of their heart. For any additional unforeseen expense, the youth sold his blood.

Acharyashree asked him why he didn't seek financial help from someone. The youth replied that when his diamond business had suffered a loss due to economic depression, he had sought help. But, whoever he had approached had said humiliating and hurtful things. Atleast, with his own sweat and blood money, he could hold his head high.

Moral :- A man is ready to let his blood flow for his family. Can we not let some money flow out of our pockets for our needy co-religionists ? They require our aid and support, not advice.

❁

8 Miracle Of Blessings And Vows



This is an incident in the life of Jain *Shreshthi* **Shree Rajnibhai Devdi** which reveals the reason of his greatness.

At one time, Rajnibhai was in dire straits and had to borrow money for his ticket fare to Mumbai.

Before his departure, he went to pay obeisance to a Jain nun named Ratna-prabhashreeji who advised him to take **three vows** - to chant the holy ***Navkar Mantra*** daily, to **never eat after sunset** and to **help needy** co-religionists with his first salary.

When Rajnibhai came to Mumbai, he did not have money even to buy food . When he received his first salary, he requested his employer for advance, citing the reason that he needed money for his food expenses and he had taken a vow to help needy co-religionists with his first salary.

Rajnibhai's employer was impressed that he wanted to help the needy in spite of his poor financial condition. From then on, **Rajnibhai** was provided all his meals from his employer's house. Rajnibhai felt immense gratitude towards the Jain nun. Her blessings and the vows had performed a miracle.

Rajnibhai will always be remembered for his philanthropic deeds and for doing the *'Maha Abhishek'* of the holy Shatrunjay.

Moral :- Seek blessings of the Guru. Take vows and adhere to them. This will enrich your life.

9 End Of Sin



This incident highlights how a discourse inspired a non-Jain to put an end to a sin.

A Jain householder, Jitubhai invited the regional head of a large political party, to attend the discourse of the Jain monk, *Poojya Acharya* Yashovarmasurijee *Maharaj Saheb.* In the discourse, Poojyashree explained that there were infinite number of micro-organisms in underground roots and stems such as potato, onion and so on. One commits the great sin of killing these living beings when one consumes such food. The non-Jain political head had become aware of this truth for the first time. He was moved to tears. He felt it was wrong to consume such food.

Co-incidentally, where not a single day passed by in his house without potato curry, his wife did not cook potato curry for three consecutive days. This helped the party head to resolve to abstain from underground roots and stems for lifetime. Moreover, at the next party Convention, the food served to the

thousands of party workers was cooked without the underground roots and stems.

Moral :- All religions preach non-violence and compassion. Keep such food habits which help to uphold these values.

❁

Importance Of Giving Alms

10



A Jain monk came to a residential building in Gopipura, Surat for alms. At one house the monk went away empty-handed because the meal was not ready. The householder and his wife wept on their misfortune. The householder forego that day's meals and continued to do so day after day upon learning that no Jain ascetic had come to their house for alms. He finally broke his fast after seven days when a Jain monk took alms from his house. Such exemplary devotion towards the saints.

Moral :- Giving alms to saints is one of the most virtuous deeds which takes one closer to salvation.

❁

11 Test Of Positivity



Anthony Robinson has written about this incident in his book **'Unlimited Power'.**

A criminal was given death sentence. A team of psychologists took permission from the court to do an experiment on that convict. The team was researching the effects of the state of mind on the body.

The convict was informed that he would be given the death punishment by a poisonous snake bite and deadly poisonous snakes were brought before him. This was done repeatedly.

On the day of his punishment, the convict was taken to a room where he was once again shown a poisonous snake. Then his hands and legs were tied up and his eyes were blindfolded. Next, he was poked two to three times with a syringe needle. The syringe needle had been filled with glucose water but he was told that a poisonous snake had bitten him.

After some time, he started convulsing and died.

The post mortem report showed that the cause of his death was poison. The belief that he had been bitten by a poisonous snake had killed him. Likewise, our negativity affects our life like poison.

Moral :- As long as your attitude is positive, no one and nothing can defeat you.

12 Remember God On Deathbed



A Jain couple was travelling in their car. Suddenly, a tanker dashed with their car. The passenger door became unlocked and the woman was flung out of the car. Her husband jumped out of the car in an attempt to rescue her but fell on the shards of the broken car glass. The shards pierced into his body and he became unconscious. Meanwhile, another tanker coming at full speed went over the woman when she was flung out.

The woman was breathing her last and in such excruciating pain also, she remembered the holy ***Navkar Mantra*** and uttered **Lord Mahaveer's** name.

The crowd, which had gathered at the accident site, started chanting the Lord's name. The woman died peacefully. The couple was Shree Jakshibhai and his wife who have constructed the Khimaibai *Dharamshala* in Palitana.

Moral :- To be able to remember God in our dying moments, we should chant His name in our entire life.

❁

13 Practise Your Religion Proudly



Around 4000 youngsters were attending the discourse of jain monk, *Poojya Acharya Shree* Yashovarma-surijee. The words penetrated the core of the heart of these youngsters. Tears flowed freely.

Next day, a youth named Ketan Parikh tearfully lay open the book of his life before *Poojyashree*. He returned from the Western Culture to the Indian Culture. He started walking on the path of religion

which he had never done before. It was like a new birth for him.

Principles are always put to test. Likewise, this happened with him too. His non-Jain friend was giving a grand party at his house and wanted to borrow Ketan's gas stove and gas cylinder. Ketan had taken a vow for lifetime to abstain from underground roots and stems and refused to lend his stove and cylinder because these food items were going to be cooked for the party. Jains abstain from these food items because it involves killing of infinite micro-organisms present in them. Ketan did not want to be involved in this sin. His friend felt offended by the refusal and broke their friendship. However, Ketan did not bend or break his principles.

There are many youngsters like Ketan. A multi-billionaire's son insisted that his wedding reception should be held during the day because he did not want the guests to eat after sunset. Jainism prohibits eating after sunset. Religion was more important to him than pleasing the society.

Moral :- Do not feel shame in following and practising your religion.

14 Instigate A Good Change



An American couple was ascending the holy Shatrunjay Hill. A Jain couple named Dilipbhai and Dakshaben were also ascending behind them. Suddenly, the American man lit a cigarette. Dilipbhai explained to him that he could not smoke in such a holy place. The American apologised and extinguished his cigarette at once.

The Jain couple started ascending with the American couple and explained to them about the greatness of Jainism and the Teerthankars. On reaching the temple, they gave *Pooja* clothes to the American couple. The American couple patiently waited in the queue for *Pooja.*

Inside the sanctum, the American man's prayer stunned everyone. He prayed, "Oh God! Give me strength to leave meat, wine and my bad habits. I shall come again to this temple to pay my respect."

The American couple received the blessing of God. The pilgrimage completely transformed their life.

Moral :- Let us adhere to the principles and code of conduct advocated by our religion and Motivate other people to change their lives for better.

❁

15 Worthwhile Death



A Jain, who has understood the teachings of Jainism well, knows that death becomes worthwhile when one is under the oath of monkhood.

A Jain couple, residing in Malad, a suburb of Mumbai, had two sons. The elder son embraced monkhood. One fateful day, the younger son died in an accident. A relative told the mother that if her elder son had not become a monk, then he could have looked after them. The mother expressed regret that her younger son had not embraced

monkhood, otherwise his death would have been worthwhile.

A Jain youth was on the last stage of tuberculosis. He wanted to die in the holy land of Shatrunjay, Palitana. He thought that he could not don the robes of a monk, but he could do the second best thing. He could die while he was under the oath of *Paushadh*. But, *Guru Bhagwant* refused to give the oath because of his critical condition. He took the oath by himself and started ascending the holy Shatrunjay Hill. Tears of joy flowed freely when he saw Lord Adinath in the temple. Then he lay down in the temple courtyard contentedly, ready to embrace death. A miracle occurred. He woke up feeling better. He observed a two-day fast and did seven *yatras* of the Hill. He was completely cured. He embraced monkhood. He went on to do the two-day fast and seven *yatras* four hundred times. This divine soul was ***Poojya Acharya Bhagwant Shree* Arihant-siddha-surijee.** His desire was fulfilled and he breathed his last under the oath of monkhood and that too on the holy land of Shatrunjay.

Moral :- Live well and die well.

16 Overcome Greed



A religious organisation was giving financial help of Rs.1500/- every month to a family in Nalasopara, Mumbai. The family started making and selling snacks. When they started earning Rs.1500/- every month, they went to the organisation to convey their gratitude and to inform that they did not require financial help any more. Moreover, they said that they would give a hundred rupees every month to the organization to help others. The family teaches us to be contented with what we have and to not be greedy.

Moral :- Greed is not a financial issue. It is a heart issue.

❁

17

Namo Arihantanam
Namo Siddhanam
Namo Aayariyanam

The Power Of Mantra

The son of a policeman, residing in the holy Jain Teerth Shankheshwar, was going along a dark, desolated road. Suddenly, he was nabbed by robbers. He had a big amount of money with him. He remembered that his father had taught him a mantra and instructed him to chant it whenever he was in trouble. He started chanting it and owing to the power of the mantra, the robbers could not find the money when they searched him. The son had chanted the first two lines of the holy *Navkar Mantra* of the Jains.

Moral :- The mantras have incredible power. One must have strong faith.

❁

Give Time To Family

18



A father used to get gifts for his little son regularly. He also gave him 10 cents of pocket-money daily.

"Papa, please sit with me for five minutes."

"No, I have to go for my job".

Every day the son would request his father to sit with him, but the father would refuse. One day, the son asked, "How much do you get paid for one hour?" His father replied, "25 dollars". Then the son asked his father to give 10 dollars. The father got angry and fiercely scolded his son that what will he do with so much money. The son softly said, "Dad, I have saved 15 dollars from the pocket money which you give me. If you give me 10 dollars more, I will have enough to get one hour of your time."

The father's eyes were filled with tears and he took his little son in close embrace.

Moral :- Your children need your **presence** and not your **presents**. Give sufficient time to your family.

19 Divine Children



One day, a group of Maharashtrian teachers came to request *Poojya Gurudev Shree* Vikram-surijee to tell the priest to open the doors of Derasar. The teachers had brought their students on a trip to Bijapur, Karnataka. They had reached late because the bus tyre had got punctured. A Jain student had refused to eat or drink anything until he did *Pooja.* The boy had agreed to come on the trip upon the condition that he should not miss his morning *Pooja* and should be served Jain food. So much **determination** and **love for religion at such a small age.**

A Jain family went to a non-vegetarian restaurant, even though the little son kept refusing because he knew it was a sin. Tomato soup was served. The son said that there was a hen feather in it. His father did not believe him and scolded him. The son started crying. Finally, the father checked and felt remorseful because his son was right. Then

and there, the father vowed never to go to a non-vegetarian restaurant for lifetime. The little boy had so much compassion for animals.

Moral :- Grown-ups can learn much from children whose hearts are pure and divine.

Spiritual Awakening

20



This incident occurred about 70 years ago. A young Jain householder named Swaroopchand had all the materialistic wealth which one could crave. He had a loving family. After attending religious discourses, he experienced spiritual awakening. Swaroopchand requested *Poojya Gurudev Shree* Labdhisurishwarjee to give him an oath that as soon as received the news of the birth of his child, without even seeing his child's face, he should detach from all his worldly ties and embrace monkhood. *Gurudev* recognized his divinity and sincerity. The oath was administered. When the day arrived, Swaroopchand fulfilled his vow. He

embraced monkhood and the name **Shree Shubhvijayji** was conferred upon him.

Moral :- You can have a spiritual awakening and discover a new side of you at any age.

21 Disability In Body Not In Spirit



This is a true story of the daughter of a wealthy Jain businessman named Vilasbhai, a resident of Baramati, Maharashtra.

The daughter had become an adult but she was a midget. She could not keep her balance while walking so she used to crawl like a baby. If she sat, she would feel searing pain in her body. In such adversity also she was always pleasant and spent all her waking hours in religious study and practice. She would also teach children, read religious magazines and weave the string of beads used to chant the holy *Navkar Mantra*. She would

never watch TV nor use the special vehicle that her father had bought for her.

Moral :- The human spirit is one of ability, perseverance and courage that no disability can steal away.

22 Taking Money to Serve God ?



The priest of a Jain temple was doing his service whole-heartedly since many years. One day, when he was taking his pay, he was overcome by the thought that he was taking salary to serve God. He cried remorsefully and started praying every day that God should do something so that he does not have to take salary. By God's grace, his son's business flourished and his son told him that he need not work any more. The priest expressed his wish that he wanted to donate to the temple the entire amount of salary which he had received in all these years of service. His son fulfilled his wish.

Moral :- It is the inner feeling that matters.

23 Foundation Of Relations



This incident depicts the honesty of Shree Suryakantbhai Mehta, the former Deputy Collector of Bhavnagar and presently an officer in the State Government of Gujarat .

A meeting regarding a marriage proposal for his daughter was fixed at Shree Suryakantbhai's house. He himself was unable to remain present at the meeting because he had to attend an urgent meeting at the *Mantralaya*. Upon returning home, he came to know that his family had persuaded his daughter not to wear her spectacles because of fear of rejection. Shree Suryakantbhai could not bear this dishonesty. He called up the boy's family and told the truth. His honesty made a good impression and the proposal was accepted.

Moral :- Parents' moralistic conduct not only sets a good example for the children but also creates goodwill for them in the society. Never start a relationship on the basis of dishonesty.

Assumptions Can Be Fatal

24



This legend tells us who built the lake called 'Daaghasha' and why.

A gypsy gave his pet dog as security to a rich man for a loan of one lakh rupees. The dog was intelligent and loyal. He prevented a big theft at the rich man's house. The rich man told the dog to return to his master. He had tied a note around his neck informing the gypsy that he was setting his dog free because he had saved his crores of rupees.When the gypsy saw his dog bounding towards him, he shunned him. He scolded the dog for running away from the rich man's house. The dog was extremely grieved by his master's rejection. The legend says the dog dashed his head against a rock and embraced death.

When the gypsy went to the rich man's house to repay the loan, he learnt the truth. He felt deep remorse that he had neither read the note nor made any clarification with the rich man. Otherwise his dog

would have been alive. The gypsy built the lake in the loving memory of his dog.

Moral :- Do not make assumptions. If in doubt, ask the person directly.

25 Duty Is Foremost



Upon reading about these two incidents, your head will involuntarily bow with respect to these couples.

The wedding arrangements were done. Unfortunately, the family was faced with the dilema of choice. The family received a letter that its name had been drawn for *'Teerth Seva'* of the holy Shatrunjay, Palitana. Co-incidentally, the day of *'Teerth Seva'* was the same as the wedding day. The bridegroom informed the temple trust that he would arrive a few hours late and immediately after the ceremony, he departed for Palitana with his family and new bride.

In another case, a young man agreed to the wedding upon one condition. His father was a cardiac

patient and even after the wedding, he would continue to sleep in his father's room so that he could immediately take his father to hospital and chant the holy *Navkar Mantra* for him in case he suffered a cardiac arrest. The girl agreed. In fact, the new bride slept on the floor on one side of her father-in-law's bed while her husband slept on the other side. She told him that they would take turns in staying awake.

Moral :- With mutual understanding and support a young couple can fulfill their duties towards parents.

❁

26 Check Before Every Step



In a discourse, a Jain monk was explaining how one can imbibe the religious teaching in one's daily activities. Every religion preaches non-violence. The Jain monk explained that one can avoid committing the sin of violence by the simple act of checking. Check every stitch of your clothing before giving for washing,

check the flour mill and the gas stove before turning them on. If there are ants or other insects, then their life will be saved. A young man felt inspired by the teaching. One day, before starting his car, he thought of checking around and under the car. He saw some puppies near the rear car tyre. He removed them carefully. Tears of relief and gratitude welled up in his eyes. If he had not acted upon the monk's teaching, then the innocent puppies would have got crushed under the car tyres.

Moral :- Value the life of even the smallest being. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages.

27 Shree Mahima Vijayji



Midnight struck. Motichand, the son of a multi-billionaire Jain businessman Shree Jechand of Visa Oswal community of Surat (Gujarat), was in deep sleep. Suddenly, he awoke or rather he was awakened. The

entire room was flooded with a radiant light and a celestial being was standing before him. The celestial being said, “Motichand, I am very pleased with you. Tell me your wish and I will fulfill it.” But Motichand got scared so the celestial being disappeared. The incident happened repeatedly for three days. The celestial being had instructed Motichand not to tell anyone but he was so scared that he confided in his father. His father told him that when the celestial being appeared next time, he should ask that his family should become more religious day by day. The celestial being appeared again but this time Motichand could only hear him and not see him because he had disobeyed. Motichand did as his father had bid him and the celestial being granted his wish. A series of miracles followed then on. Motichand soon became detached from all worldly ties and embraced monkhood. He was none other than *Panyas* **Shree Mahima Vijayji** whose Guru was a disciple of *Poojya Acharya Bhagwant* Shree **Labdhisurijee.** His followers have witnessed the numerous miracles which happened in his life.

Moral :- Some incidents can change the path of your life.

28 Miraculous Medicine



We read in Jain scriptures about the miraculous effects of *Siddhachakra* and *Navpad Oli* in the lives of Shreepal and Mayna. However, even today we find living proofs of these miracles.

Bhanwarlal, a grocer in Patna(Bihar), had leucoderma. He knew that Shreepal had been cured of leprosy due to *Navpad Oli*. He also did the *Oli* with complete faith and devotion and was cured of leucoderma.

In Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh), a Jain *Shravika* advised a poor pedlar woman, who was terminally ill, to do *Oli*. She explained that for nine days she would have to eat only once-a-day, that too only boiled pulses and cereals cooked without spices and drink only boiled water. Due to illness, the pedlar woman's throat was badly infected and on the first day, she could hardly swallow some moong water. She vomitted many times but she continued doing

Ayambil. By the fifth day, she could swallow food and she was completely cured.

In Delhi, a married woman was thrown out of her house by her in-laws and husband because she developed vitiligo. With a heavy heart, she returned to her parental home in Chennai. There she heard of the miracles of *Aayambil Oli*. She did *Aayambil Oli* and within 9 days her vitiligo disappeared. She was completely cured. Her husband and in-laws heard of this and went to Chennai and apologized to her and her parents and took her back home restoring her married life.

Moral :- The food served in *Ayambil* is healthy food which acts like a medicine to cleanse and detoxify your body. It is miraculous but one must have firm faith.

❁

29 Mother – The Worldly God



"The most beautiful call on the lips of mankind - My Mother." - **Khalil Gibran.**

This story epitomises the saying that mother is worldly God. **Alice** was the grand-daughter of **Queen Victoria** of England. Alice's ten-year-old son had contracted a very contagious cardiac disease. The doctor was, therefore, not allowing visitors. However, the doctor knew that it would be difficult to stop the boy's mother. So, he had ordered that a rope should be tied across the entrance to the room.

When Alice's son saw her outside the room, he cried, "Mother, why are you so far from me? Why are you not taking me in your lap and loving me?" Alice could not ignore her son's pleas. Next day, she secretly brought a sharp knife with her. When her son was alone, she quickly cut the rope and ran to him, hugging him tightly.

What the doctor had feared, happened. Alice got infected and died within six hours. Her son too passed away after twelve hours.

Moral :- A mother's love for her children is unmatched and selfless. She can even sacrifice her life for the happiness of her child.

Mother's Selfless Love

30



A mother's love for her child flows like a river constantly but without ebbing. A mother's love is not seasonal like the monsoon, she showers her love all the year round. A mother's love is soothing like the moonlight but it never wanes like the moon.

When Bangladesh got its independence, communal riots had started in Karachi (Pakistan). A Gujarati family had gone to Karachi for business. The father went to the shop to collect the necessary documents. The mother and the twelve-year- old son began to pack. The family was going to leave for India that very day by steamer.

After boarding the steamer, the mother realized that they had forgotten to take her two-year-old daughter. She told her husband to fetch her but he refused to put his life at risk. The mother said that she herself would go. The co-passengers tried in vain to dissuade her.

She offered her gold bangle to a rickshaw driver to drive her home. She opened the door with a kick. Her daughter had been crying profusely. She returned to the port and offered her second bangle also as a token of gratitude but the rickshaw driver refused to take it. Moreover the rickshaw driver confessed that he had planned to behead her with his sword, but her love for her daughter had changed his heart and he resolved not to kill anyone. A mother's love proved victorious.

Moral :- A mother can put her own life at risk for her children.

31 Mother's Undying Love



Mother gives a silent message through unattached service and selfless love.

A cow delivered her calf. The calf's rosy pink, soft body fell lifelessly upon the ground. The cow became restless with despair and grief. She licked her calf's body with affection. The cow's mistress and others looked on with pity. The calf's carcass was

then taken away and thrown over the cliff into the sea.

The cow did not even glance at the fodder that her mistress gave her. She started sniffing the ground and picking up the trail of her calf, she reached the cliff. She mooed with delight upon seeing her calf lying on the rocks. The water was swirling around the calf. The cliff, being steep, the cow's attempts to reach her calf were proving futile.

Suddenly, a large wave swept over the calf and dragged it into the sea. The cow let out a cry of grief and jumped over the cliff as if to prevent the sea from sweeping away her calf.

Moral :- A mother can die for her children but her love for her children never dies.

❁

32 Mother's Love Knows No Bounds



Mother is the greatest teacher of all. Motherhood is the noblest of all careers. Without Mother,

this world would be like a jungle. In Mother's lap, a child finds the coolest shade and the safest abode.

Durgashankar Vyas held a high post in the government office. One day, when he was in a meeting, the peon informed him about his mother's arrival. That day, the tiffin delivery man was on a sick leave. Durgashankar's mother knew that he would not have any outside food. Being a mother, she could not bear that her son should stay hungry the entire day. So, she had brought his tiffin to the office.

Khalil Gibran states the glory of Mother in these words, "Mother is a sweet and affectionate word which epitomises hope, consolation, strength, selfless love, compassion and forgiveness."

Moral :- Have utmost respect and regard for your mother.

33 Children's Duty



A Hebrew saying – 'God couldn't be everywhere so He created Mother.'

'Instead of God's name, Mother's name dwells on the lips and in the heart of a child.' - An excerpt from the novel 'Vanity Fair.'

'Two things in this world can never be bad. One is our mother and the other our motherland.' **- V.S Khandekar.**

'Mother, I am ready to traverse lakhs of miles for just one smile of yours." - Anonymous.

A mother had a very loving family of three sons, three daughters-in-law, two daughers, two sons-in–law and many grandchildren. The entire family had gathered to celebrate her birthday in order to show their love and gratitude for her. One son put his medical degree certificate at her feet and said, "Mother, I owe my success to you!" His wife said, "It is because of you that I have got such a good husband." A daughter said, "Mother, it is only because of your upbringing that my in-laws have never got an opportunity to point a finger at me." Another son said, "My formal education has not been able to teach me more than what I have learnt from you." All the family members said something while Mother listened silently. Then, they asked her to say

something. Her heart was too full for words. She said in a tremulous voice that she had only done what every mother does. It was her duty. Her son responded, "It is also every child's duty to give happiness and care to his Mother. But how many children actually are performing this duty ?" Everyone's eyes welled up with tears when he said this.

Moral :- Every mother performs her duty towards her child without any expectation. Every child must also unfailingly do his duty towards his mother.

❁

34 Pivotal Role Of Parents



"Father is the head of the house and Mother is the heart of the house."

Jainism advocates that one should not just serve but also worship one's parents. One needs to serve parents may be only when they become physically weak and helpless. However, worship is not related to physical condition, but is a direct

culmination of immense love and respect towards one's parents. Mother does not take care of her baby because it is helpless but because of love.

Here is the story of a person who was taught sensitivity and humility by his mother when he got carried away by his social status. Dr.Todarmal would always get irritated when his mother addressed him as 'Todar' and told her so. She understood that her son had got affected by the social recognition he had received and thought of an idea to make him realise his mistake. She told him to sleep in her room that night. In the middle of the night, she asked him to fetch a glass of water and he obeyed her even though he was not pleased that his sleep had been disturbed. She drank some of the water and spilled the remaining water on the bed. Her act annoyed Dr.Todarmal and he scolded his mother. She told him, "Son, when you were an infant, you used to wet the bed often but I never got angry." Dr. Todarmal felt ashamed of his behaviour. He understood that no matter how much fame a person earns he cannot reach the height of his parents' greatness.

Moral :- A short–sighted person sees only the fruits on the tree and not its root. Similarly, a person's development and success is visible but not the parent's upbringing which is at the root of the person's achievements. However, lack of visibility does not justify the denial of its existence nor the devaluation of its significance.

❁

35 Modern Day Shravankumar



'Mother, Father and *Guru* are the living Gods on this earth.'

Ganesh, a native of Udaipur (Rajasthan), was inspired by Shravankumar's devotion and dedicated service towards his parents, ever since he saw the enactment of Ramleela at the age of fourteen. At the age of sixteen, he lost his five-month-old daughter, Lakshmi and within a short span, his wife too. However, Ganesh accepted it as God's will and instead of lamenting, he devoted his time and energy

to look after his old mother who had become blind, deaf and lame. Ganesh looked after her just like a mother looks after her baby. Like Shravankumar, Ganesh took his mother on a pilgrimage tour. Wherever there was a need to walk, Ganesh would carry his mother on his back or in his arms like a child. He took her to holy places like Kashi, Mathura, Vrindavan, Dattatreya peak on Girnar, Dwarka, Somnath, Pavagadh, Ambaji and many more. During his journey, Ganesh received the help and co-operation of compassionate co-travellers who were impressed by his devotion towards his mother.

Moral :- Ganesh can be a role model for today's children. He can inspire a transformation in the hearts of the children who have sent away their parents to old age homes.

Son's Sacrifice 36



'Mother is the foundation of our existence.'

If we dissolve our existence for our mother, then also it would not be enough to repay her. Here is a story of a son who sacrificed his life for his mother.

'Mother, I have brought rice for you. You have not eaten anything since three days. Have it quickly.' There had been famine in China for two successive years. Thousands of people, animals and birds lost their lives. Food distribution centres were set up by benevolent people. Poor people used to travel over ten miles and stand in long queues for just one bowl of rice. The son, who himself had become weak and ill from hunger, was driven by his love and devotion for his mother to walk such a long distance. He wanted to save his old, hunger-stricken mother.

When the son told her to eat, his mother asked, "Son, did you eat?" The son lied, "Yes, Mother. My stomach is full, now you also eat." The son watched with contentment his mother eating the rice and breathed his last.

Moral :- Do not repay your mother's love with ingratitude. Make the greatest sacrifice possible to repay her.

37 Will Mother Like It ?



***Guru* Dayal Malik** was a great saint. He was a student of *Gurudev* Rabindranath Tagore. He was an admirer of the ideals and principles of **Mahatma Gandhi.** *Guru* Dayal Malik has narrated an incident of his childhood in these words, "I must have been eleven years old. One day, I was walking on a road. Suddenly, a mendicant picked me up in his arms. He silently gazed into my eyes for a few seconds. Then he put me down. He did this thrice."

The mendicant told him, "You must always remember that before saying or doing something, ask your heart whether your mother will like it or not?"

Guru Dayal says, "I have never seen the mendicant afterwards, but his advice got rooted in my heart." My mother always comes into my mind as a result of which I feel hesitant and ashamed of

thinking, speaking or doing anything wrong. This habit has saved me from many sins."

Moral :- Right from childhood cultivate the habit not to do anything that one's mother would disapprove of.

38 Create Heaven In Your Home



Many people go on a pilgrimage because they want to go to Heaven after death. They do not recognise the living God and Goddess in their house and wander outside in search of God. They need to be told that true heaven is at their parents' feet and serving one's parents is true pilgrimage.

A young Muslim went on Haj to Mecca. After returning, he went to pay respect to Saint Usman Hayri who ignored him. The young man asked angrily, "What kind of a saint are you? I have just come back from Haj and come to pay respect to you but you are ignoring me."

The saint replied, "I know you very well. You went on Haj, leaving your mother at home to fend for herself. You mistreat your mother. She suffers hunger pangs as you don't even give her proper food. Your pilgrimage will not bear any fruit, if you ignore your mother. You have repaid your mother's favours with ingratitude. How can you hope to gain Heaven for yourself when you are making your mother go through Hell?" The young man hung his head in shame after hearing this.

Moral :- You will not have to worry whether you will go to Heaven or Hell after death, if you create Heaven in your own home.

39 Please Your Living Goddess



During *Navratri* festival, a man had brought home a beautiful idol of Mother Goddess. He had planned to celebrate the festival with great pomp. He put the idol in a beautifully decorated sanctum, specially prepared

for the occasion. Flowers, fruits and sweets were arranged for offering to Mother Goddess. Lamps were lit and the fragrance of incense sticks filled the entire house. His heart was overflowing with joy.

The man's friend came to visit him. The friend saw that the man's mother was hustling about making all the arrangements according to her son's orders. The mother brought a bucket-full of water. The man shouted angrily at her upon learning that she had brought tap-water instead of well-water for the *Pooja*. He told her to pull out water from the well and bring it.

The man's friend had witnessed everything. He couldn't remain silent any longer. "Has Mother Goddess ever showered her love upon you?" he asked. "No," replied the man. "Why would she if she is not pleased with you?" he continued, "To worship Mother Goddess or not is your personal choice but our mother is the living goddess on Earth. Your mother has showered so much love upon you. She has always put your well-being before hers. You must worship and honour her."

"In my opinion, all the nine days of the *Navratri* festival must be declared as Mother's Day. Just like

the importance of brother is highlighted on *Bhaibeej* / *Bhaidooj* day, the importance of sister on *Rakshabandhan* day, the importance of mother should be highlighted during this festival. You are fortunate to have your mother with you. Honour her and with her blessings you will gain happiness and prosperity. Even if we make shoes out of our skin for our mother, it will not be possible to repay her favours. If you have realised your mistake, then start correcting it."

Moral :- The friend's advice is for everyone. Awaken those faded memories of everything that your mother has done for you. Love her, honour her and cherish her.

40 Be An Ideal Example For Your Spouse



This is a heart-wrenching and thought-provoking true story of a widow named Jhabakma who suffered many hardships to bring up and educate her six-year-old

son, Suman. He got an MBBS degree and his mother persuaded him to marry a B.A. degree-holder, Nirmala.

Nirmala was beautiful but 'All that glitters is not gold'. Her beauty was skin-deep. She looked down upon her uneducated mother-in-law from the day she entered the house. She used to get very annoyed when Jhabakma pointed out her mistakes or told her to do any household chore. She felt she was being treated like a servant. She decided to take the bull by its horns. She started shouting angrily at her mother-in-law and warned her not to interfere in her matters. Jhabakma's soft heart was hurt by such aggressive behaviour and bitter words. She decided to maintain silence and keep out of her daughter-in-law's way.

One day, a beggar woman came to their house for alms. Nirmala was neither generous nor compassionate. She told the beggar woman contemptuously to go away. However, the beggar woman was persistent. Jhabakma thought that instead of throwing away the leftover rotis, why not use it for a benevolent cause? So, she gave the rotis to the beggar woman who sarcastically commented that Jhabakma had chosen a daughter-in-law of a miserly family. The comment hurt Nirmala's pride and provoked

her anger. When Suman returned home in the evening, Nirmala raised a hue and cry. She narrated the entire episode, showing Jhabakma in bad light. Suman lost his temper. Without giving his mother a chance to defend herself, he dragged her out of the house.

Suman's behaviour shook Jhabakma to the core of her heart. She could not believe how her son was repaying her for the hardships she had suffered for him. She stayed at a friend's house till she found a small house on rent.

One day, Jhabakma fell ill. Her friend's son took her to Suman's clinic. Suman, who had already behaved so callously with his mother, shamelessly charged fees for treating his own mother. Jhabakma became furious. She gave him a bill of all the expenses she had incurred for him and her fees for upbringing him.

Suman felt ashamed of his behaviour. He sought forgiveness from his mother. His mother forgave him because all mothers are soft-hearted and compassionate and do not keep ill-feelings towards their children. He brought his mother home and warned his wife strictly to treat his mother well or leave the house. Nirmala understood that Suman

would brook no nonsense and she turned over a new leaf.

Moral :- If sons and daughters respect their parents, then their spouses will do the same. Set an example of exemplary behaviour for your spouse.

41 The Children Of Kalyug



One mother maintains ten children better than ten children maintain one mother.

Maybe it is the adverse effect of the *Kalyug* Era but today all parents must accept that they should not expect their so-called 'educated' children to look after them. However, would it be too much for them to expect that their children will atleast let them pass their old age peacefully? The following incident raises this question.

A loving father went to the extent of sinking in debt to give the best of education to his two sons and even gave them a sound moral upbringing.

Eventually, the sons made their father's business prosperous. However, the sons grew arrogant with their growing success. Differences of opinion created a rift between the two sons. When their father tried to resolve their differences, they uttered unimaginable and hurtful words, "With increasing age, your intelligence is decreasing so it would be best for you to remain silent."

Finally, all the wealth and property was distributed equally between them, but in whose share did the parents come? It was decided that the father would live with the younger son and the mother with the elder son. The parents had no say in the matter. The father could not bear the shock. He died within two months. After cremation, when the keeper of the cremation ground approached the elder son for the payment for the rites, he told the keeper to take it from the younger son with whom their father had lived.

In another heart-wrenching and cruel incident, two sons took the decision to go to the hospital on alternate days to look after their mom, who was suffering from cancer. They had taken the decision

unwillingly because they did not want defamation in their community. When their mother did not die quickly as they had expected, they strangled her to death in the hospital one night.

Mother Earth sheds silent tears upon this sin of ingratitude that her children are committing. We have an ideal example of Shravankumar who carried his parents on his shoulders and took them on a pilgrimage tour while some children are in a hurry to send their parents to the cremation ground. In which category do you come?

Moral :- Do not make life hell for your parents who have given you life.

42 A Lesson For All Children



A son wanted to stop his father from interfering in business matters. He was unable to say anything directly so he bought ten meters of saffron clothing and gave it to his father. His father

understood that the son wanted him to retire and embrace monkhood. The father cut the cloth piece into equal halves and gave one half to his son. When the son asked for a reason he said, "Today my son is atleast giving me this cloth piece, but in future, I doubt whether your son will give you any clothing at all. So, I am giving you half of this cloth piece as provision for your future." The son realised at once that 'What Goes Around, Comes Around' and apologised to his father.

A teacher who had adopted modern culture, felt embarrassed to be seen in public with his illiterate, old-fashioned father. The affluent people of the village became aware of this and felt concerned that how could such a teacher give sound moral education to the children. They complained to the Inspector of Education Board when he came for inspection. On the Prize Distribution Day, the teacher's father was also invited as planned by the Inspector. The teacher was ushering the invitees to their seats. However, he could not decide where to seat his father. Just then, the Inspector came along and asked the teacher to introduce the elderly man standing beside him. The teacher did not reveal that

the elderly man was his father and introduced him as a merchant. The teacher's self-respecting father taunted that the teacher had forgotten that he was his mother's husband. The Inspector reprimanded the teacher, "If you feel ashamed of calling your father - 'Father', then what would you teach your students?" In an undertone, the Inspector threatened to sack him and out of fear of losing his job, the teacher accepted his father as father.

Moral :- Do not expect your children to treat you well, if you treat your parents badly.

43 Education Begins In The Womb



'There is a woman behind every successful man.' In most cases, it is the mother.

Jijabai used to read stories of gallantry when *Chhatrapati* Shivaji *Maharaj* was in her womb. The rest, as they say, is history. *Chhatrapati* Shivaji fought valiantly against his enemies like Aurangzeb

and established an independent and unified Maratha kingdom.

The mother of poet Burns was poor but she inculcated her spiritual and moral values in him and he became a famous spiritual poet.

A well-educated mother can give a sound education to her child. No educational institute can match the quality of education that a mother can give. The education given by institutes touches the mind whereas a mother's education touches the heart and soul. A mother has the power to shape her child's thoughts, mental fortitude, emotional intelligence and value system which builds the foundation of his success. The education in an institute begins a few years after a child's birth whereas a mother starts educating from the time her child is in her womb.

Moral :- A mother is the sculptor of her child's personality and the architect of his character. A mother must not keep her child in the care of a maid or a man-servant in his important years of growing.

44 Fun Is In Feel, Not In Thrill



A collegian went to visit his grandparents in the village during his vacation. When he was returning to Delhi, he persuaded his grandfather to go with him.

He took his grandfather on a tour of Delhi. But, rather than the sights, his grandfather enjoyed more the love he was receiving from his grandson. One day, his grandson took him on the fastest train of India which covered a distance of thirty kilometres in just ten minutes. On account of its great speed, the train made a very loud noise which made conversation impossible.

At the end of the journey, the grandson asked his grandfather's opinion about the train. He replied, "Frankly speaking, I did not enjoy it. I could not see anything outside the window because everything passed by so quickly. I agree that **change is**

necessary but it should not snatch the enjoyment of your life." The grandson was listening attentively.

The grandfather continued, "When I was of your age, there were no trains. We travelled by carts which moved slowly so we could enjoy all the sights on the way. We could hear the birds chirping, see the butterflies flying and we could chat and sing also. We cannot do such things in this train."

Moral :- Our life has become speedy like the train. We have no time to enjoy Nature. But remember that real fun is in 'feel' and not in 'thrill'.

The Road To Happiness

45



Vashishth was the only son of a widow. After he completed his education, he got a good job in the city. He firmly lay a condition before his employer that he would take half day's leave on Saturdays and would start work

on Mondays from one o'clock in the afternoon. Vashishth did his work with honesty and dedication, so his employer accepted his condition. However, the other employees raised their voice against this unfairness. The boss called a meeting of his employees and asked Vashishth to give an explanation for his condition. Vashishth said that he went to his village every weekend to look after his mother. His mother had refused to come to the city and there was no one to look after her. Even during his college days, he used to go on weekends and public holidays and skip picnics to be with his mother.

After hearing his explanation, the other employees dispersed silently. Bharti, the office stenographer, resigned from her job and insisted that she would marry Vashishath and go and stay with his mother. The boss was surprised that a girl, born and brought up in the city, was ready to live in a village and serve her mother–in–law.

One day, Vashishth handed over his resignation letter because his mother was suffering from cancer and wanted her son to be with her till her last breath. Several years passed and one day, Vashishth's ex-boss met him at the court where Vashishth was the

judge in the case of divorce proceedings of his ex-boss' son.

Vashishth invited his ex-boss, who had now become old and frail, to his house for dinner. Over dinner, Vashishth told him that after his mother's death he had come back to the city and started practicing law. He said that his wife, Bharti had lovingly served his mother. His mother had died with a smile of contentment on her lips and had given her blessing that God may give them a son and daughter-in-law just like the ones he had given her.

Moral :- The road to one's happiness is the one that reaches one's parents' heart.

46 Empathy Instead Of Sympathy



A small boy went to a pet shop to buy a puppy. All the puppies in the shop were cute and playful. The boy was observing all of them. Just then, the boy's

attention was drawn to a puppy which was silently sitting in one corner and watching the other puppies play.

When the boy picked up that puppy, it started licking his hand and looked up at him dolefully. The boy started patting the puppy lovingly. The boy chose that puppy but the shopkeeper refused to sell it. The boy wanted to know the reason. The shopkeeper said that the puppy was lame and he did not want to sell such a puppy to his customers. The boy insisted upon buying the lame puppy and was ready to pay the same price he would have paid for a normal puppy.

Now the shopkeeper wanted to know the reason. In reply, the boy silently lifted the left leg of his trousers and showed his prosthetic leg.

Moral :- There is a big difference between understanding and feeling. We will be able to realise somebody's pain, only if we feel empathy instead of sympathy.

The Whole World Is Mine

47



A King invited the scholars of his capital city for a feast on his birthday. The King said to the scholars, "You all are the real pride of my city. I want to give you all a gift on my birthday. I am giving a time limit of 24 hours and tomorrow each of you may build the longest wall you can and I will gift you the land enclosed within your wall."

Upon reaching home, the scholars started making arrangements for money to build the wall. They wanted to acquire as much land as possible. They were ready to spend all their savings, sell their jewellery, even their house.

Next day at sunrise, the scholars started the task with full vigour. There were not enough labourers, so all their family members also laboured hard.

The King came for inspection. He was surprised to see that at one place a wall had been constructed around a very small area and then the wall had been

demolished. The King wanted to know who had done it. A simple-looking man stepped forward. Everyone started laughing at his folly. The King had given such a wonderful opportunity and he had failed to grab it.

The King asked him why he had demolished his wall. The man replied, "Your Majesty, I thought that no matter how long a wall I build, the area of land within my wall will always be small compared to the area of land outside it. So, I demolished my wall in order to feel that I am the owner of all this land."

Moral :- Narrow-minded people feel that whatever they have is not enough. However, when the walls of narrow-mindedness are broken down, one feels that the whole world is theirs.

48 What Do We Get From Life?



Inside the classroom of a Dairy Science College, a student asked his Professor, "Sir, our life is quite different from the life of animals. Please tell me from your experience, what do human beings attain from their life journey?"

The Professor said, "Your question is very good, but I want you to first answer my question. You have learnt about dairy products, so tell me what can we get from milk?"

The student replied, "We can make many products from milk. The list is long. But we can say that what we can get from milk depends upon what we add to the milk."

The Professor was happy with his student's answer and said, "The answer is correct. The answer to your question is similar to your answer. If we add love to our life, then we will get love and if we add hatred to our life, then we will get hatred."

Moral :- Do not add any wrong ingredient to your life that would spoil it. Try to get the best out of your life.

49 Keep Control Over Your Body



King Bhoj and his Prime Minister were travelling. On the way, they saw a man sleeping peacefully under a tree. King Bhoj wondered how he could sleep so

peacefully on the rough ground. His Prime Minister said, "Your Majesty, a person learns to adjust and live according to his circumstances and his body also obeys his will. However, King Bhoj failed to understand. So, the Prime Minister took the King's permission to carry out an experiment to prove what he had said.

The Prime Minister awakened the sleeping man and told him that he no longer needed to work for his living because he would stay at the King's palace and the King would provide for all his needs.

The man was provided with a soft pillow and mattress to sleep on. After a few days, the mattress was replaced with a lumpy one. The next day, the man was summoned to the court. The King saw that his eyes were red and asked the reason. The man said that he had not slept the entire night because the mattress was hurting his body and the floor was too hard to sleep on.

The Prime Minister said to the King, "Your Majesty, you must have now understood. The man, who could once sleep comfortably on rough ground, could not sleep even on an evenly surfaced floor after enjoying a few days of comfortable life."

Moral :- Our body can be our slave. We can train it to do what we wish.

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The Purpose Of Rituals

50



A gentleman, after taking his bath, was bowing in different directions. Gautam Buddha, who was passing by, stopped to watch him as the gentleman bowed in the four cardinal directions, towards the sky and the ground.

Gautam Buddha approached him and asked him whether he knew the purpose of this ritual. The gentleman said he did not know but was doing it as it was told by the religious scriptures.

Gautam Buddha further said that when a ritual is done without understanding its purpose, it will be done mechanically, without any feelings. The gentleman requested Gautam Buddha to explain the purpose of the ritual.

Gautam Buddha enlightened the purpose by saying that one bows to one's parents in the east, to one's Gurus and teachers in the South, to one's spouse and children in the West, to one's friends in the North, to one's employer (to whom one owes one's livelihood) towards the sky and to one's employees (who help in one's work) towards the ground.

In other words, the purpose is to bow in gratitude to all the important people in one's life.

Moral :- Are we expressing our gratitude to the important people in our lives ?

51 The Truth Is Sometimes Hidden



A man boarded a train with his children. As the train moved on, the children started playing mischief. The man was sitting silently, lost in deep thought. The co-passengers could no longer tolerate the children's mischief. They complained to the father and asked why he was not stopping them. The man apologised and said he was

not stopping them because their happiness and mischief were not going to last long. The children were not aware of it yet, but their mother had died and he was going with his children to take her dead body.

The eyes of the co-passengers filled with tears upon hearing this. Their anger evaporated at once! Their behaviour towards the children changed. They showered love upon the children and gave them chocolates.

The truth is not always obvious and this also happened in case of a school girl named Shraddha. She started coming late to school and the teacher would punish her without asking her the reason for coming late. Shraddha also accepted the punishment silently. This went on for three months. One day, Shraddha surprised the teacher by coming on time. The teacher asked how come she was on time that day? Shraddha said that she used to come late because her mother, who was the only breadearner of her family, had to go for work in the morning and she could not leave her physically challenged and ill brother till her mother returned home. She said tearfully that now her reason for being late was gone. Her brother had passed away.

Moral :- All scars do not show. All pain is not obvious. Remember this before you judge someone. Do not react on the basis of what you see.

52 The Value Of Duplicate



One day, the great actor Charlie Chaplin read an advertisement. It was regarding a contest in which the participants had to dress and act like Charlie Chaplin. Just for fun, Charlie Chaplin also participated in the contest. To his amusement, he lost. Charlie Chaplin laughed and uttered a deep philosophical truth, "The one who was pretending won and the one who was genuine lost. The contestants matched my appearance but they cannot match my thoughts and conduct. I am happier than the winner because I am the real Charlie Chaplin."

Moral :- Success won by imitation, pretence or falsehood is temporary. Our thoughts and conduct reveal our true self.

Bheeshma's Teaching

53



This is an incident from the great Indian epic 'Mahabharat'.

During the battle of Kurukshetra, Arjun had fatally wounded his grandfather, Bheeshma with his arrows. Bheeshma was lying upon a bed of arrows. The Pandavs and the Kauravs were coming to meet him. They would ask him to share the wisdom he had gained from his experiences.

One day, the Pandavs came with their wife, Draupadi. In the middle of a serious philosophical conversation, Draupadi suddenly laughed out aloud. Bheeshma was taken aback by her insolence. Draupadi apologised and said, "Where had your wisdom vanished on the day when the Kauravs were humiliating me publicly in the royal court?"

Bheeshma replied, "O Daughter! In those days I used to eat the food provided by Duryodhan. The food had been obtained from wealth earned by committing atrocities, exploitation and cheatery. The toxic food had

corrupted my mind and killed the human being in me."

Draupadi retorted, "Then how did the human being in you become alive today ?"

Bheeshma answered, "That has happened because this bed of arrows is drawing out the toxic blood drop by drop from my body."

Moral :- The means you employ to earn your food affects the purity of your food which in turn has a direct impact on the purity of your thoughts, words and actions.

54 What Is Left After Subtracting 9 from 27?



Emperor Akbar had convened a meeting of mathematicians at his court. He asked them a seemingly easy question –"How much is left after subtracting 9 from 27?". They all answered uniformly –"18". The mathematicians started whispering among themselves that Emperor Akbar seemed to have lost his mind, otherwise why would he ask such a childish question to scholars like them ?

Emperor Akbar then asked the same question to Birbal. He gave a different answer than the scholars. His answer was,"Zero". The scholars laughed at him and discussed among themselves that Birbal was not at all intelligent like the people believed him to be. Emperor Akbar asked Birbal to explain his answer.

Birbal said, "Your Majesty, there are 27 constellations in all. Out of these 9 are considered very important for the occurrence of rainfall in the monsoon season. If it fails to rain during the period of these 9 constellations, then the entire year is spoilt due to drought. The other 18 constellations lose their value in such a case."

Moral :- The incident lays stress on the importance of practical knowledge and also gives us the message that water is life.

55 How Much Do We Need For A Living?



One early winter morning, a fox went out for a stroll in a jungle. Suddenly, he saw his shadow which was very long. The ignorant fox believed that the size of his shadow was

his real size. He thought that he would have to catch a big prey such as a camel to satisfy his hunger.

He set out in search of a camel. However, when he actually came face-to-face with a camel, he could not muster the courage to kill it. He pacified himself that he would kill another camel. However, even by noon, he had not caught his desired prey. At noon, the sun came overhead and the fox noticed that his shadow had become very small. The shadow was now smaller than his real size but he felt that he had made a mistake before and the smaller shadow was his real size. He felt that he had hunted for a camel in vain, he could have satisfied his hunger even with a small mouse.

Moral :- Like the fox, we are also ignorant about our actual needs. Throughout our life, we keep running after so many things that we do not need. But the realisation comes too late.

56 Awaken Your Self-Pride



A father took his son for shopping. First, they went to a shoe shop.

The father told the salesman to show some good shoes for his son, but the son said that he did not need shoes. He said that his old shoes were still in good condition and his foot-size had not increased, and instead of his shoes, it was more necessary to buy new spectacles for his grandfather. The father was pleased by his son's caring and considerate nature.

Next, they went into a garment shop to buy a shirt and trousers. The son suggested that they should buy a shirt which was one size bigger so that it would fit him later also when he grew bigger and the looseness of the shirt did not matter because he would tuck the shirt in his trousers.

The father asked his son from where he had imbibed such good thoughts and the wisdom of spending money wisely. The son's impressive reply was, "Father, your salary is modest, but you earn it honestly. I have heard people praising your honesty and integrity. I receive respect from people only because I am an honest man's son. I feel proud to have a father like you. One of your colleagues lives in our neighbourhood. He has earned a lot of money, but people say he has earned it dishonestly. They call him bad names. It is alright if I have one pair of clothes and

shoes less, but I will not be able to tolerate if anyone calls you a 'cheat' or a 'corrupt' man."

Moral :- Honesty may not earn us wealth and fame, but it will keep our self-respect intact.

57 Goodness Is Always Remembered



Manav was an electrical engineer and worked in a reputed private company. One evening, just when he was about to leave the office, he received instructions to resolve the complaint regarding the cold storage. He went to check the cold storage. Unfortunately, he got locked in. He screamed for help but it was all in vain. All the employees had gone home. Manav had accepted his inevitable death.

By God's grace, the security guard opened the cold storage before the situation could become worse.

Manav thanked his saviour and asked, "It is not your job to check the cold storage, then how come you are here?"

The security guard replied, “I am working since two months in this company. Out of thousands of workers here, you are the only one who greets me 'Good Morning' while coming and 'Good Evening' while leaving. When you smile and talk to me, I feel good that someone treats me like a human. All the employees had left but I did not see you. You would not have left without greeting me. So, I sensed something was wrong. I started searching for you and found you here.”

MORAL OF THE STORY :- Goodness is always remembered and repaid.

Habits Die Hard 58



A rich man was very worried about his son who had acquired some very bad habits. His son had promised several times to give up his bad habits but was unable to do so. The man expressed his concern to his Guru who told him to come with his son the next day.

Next day, *Guruji* took them for a stroll in the forest outside the village. On the way, *Guruji* pointed towards

a small bush and asked the son if he could uproot it. The son immediately uprooted it. After going a little farther, *Guruji* told him to uproot a medium-sized plant. The plant was firmly fixed, so the son had to employ a lot of strength to uproot it. Finally, *Guruji* stopped in front of a tall, strong tree and told the son to uproot it. The son expressed his inability to do so. He said it would be impossible to uproot the tree, even if all three of them collectively applied their strength.

Guruji said, "This is what I wanted you to understand. When habits are small and new, we can give them up easily, but as time passes, they become very strong and impossible to give up."

Moral :- Learn to differentiate between good and bad habits because habits once formed are hard to break.

59 The Right Way To Spend Your Income



One day, King Bhoj set out in disguise to inspect his city. He met a woodcutter who was looking very happy. King Bhoj was surprised to know that the woodcutter was

happy, even though his daily earnings were merely six rupees. The King naturally wanted to know what the secret of the woodcutter's happiness was.

The woodcutter said, "How you spend your income is more important than how much your income is.

I repay my debt to my parents by spending one rupee on them.

I lend one rupee on interest. I do this by spending one rupee on my children's education as they are going to be my support in future.

I spend one rupee on business. I mean I spend it on relatives and friends. Just as in business, there is gain as well as loss in relations as well.

I give one rupee as charity which I call my investment because whatever goodness I spread will come back to me in some form.

I pay one rupee as tax to God to whom I am grateful for everything He has given me.

Finally, the one rupee which is left, I use for household expenses."

Moral :- The woodcutter has given us the key to happiness.

60



The Middle Path Is The Best Path

Shaun was the extremely handsome son of a billionaire living in Champanagari. His body was soft and delicate. It was believed that even the soles of his feet were as soft as rose petals. He was proud of his good looks.

Once, Shaun went to pay obeisance to Gautam Buddha. He was confident that Gautam Buddha would be impressed by his appearance and praise him for it. However, Shaun was disappointed because Buddha did no such thing.

In fact, Gautam Buddha talked in his sermon about the temporary nature of the physical body. "The physical body will undoubtedly be reduced to ashes one day. So, make the optimum use of your body."

Gautam Buddha's sermon awakened Shaun's soul. He resolved that, henceforth, he would not pamper his body. He stopped wearing footwear. The

stones and the thorns on the road cut into the soles of his feet and made them bleed. He gave up the comforts of his life. However, he felt no peace. He went to Gautam Buddha to seek the solution to his problem. Shaun said, "O Lord! I was restless when I was leading a life of comfort and luxury and I am still in pain when I am leading an austere life. What is the reason?"

Gautam Buddha asked, "Have you ever played the *veena* ?" Shaun replied yes. Buddha then asked, "Will the *veena* play if its strings are loose?" Shaun's answer was, "It will play but tunelessly." Buddha's interrogation continued, "What if the strings of the *veena* are pulled more tightly than necessary?" Shaun's reply was the same, "Lord, it will not play properly."

Buddha now enlightened him, "That's also how our body is. Too much of pampering will render it useless and too much of austerity will also render it useless of any effort."

Moral :- Avoid extremities. Walk on the middle path. A balanced life makes it enjoyable.

Get Rid Of Your Negative Beliefs



61

Once a mahout was taking his elephant through a metropolitan city. The people of the city flocked to see the elephant because they had seen an elephant only in pictures and movies. One spectator observed that the elephant's legs were tied with a thin and weak rope. He asked the mahout, "Will the elephant not break this thin and weak rope and run away?"

The mahout replied, "Your question is justified but such a thing will never happen because this rope was tied to his legs when he was just a baby. At that time, he had tried very hard to break the rope but had failed to do so because of his age. He developed a firm belief that it was beyond his capacity to break the rope and ceased all efforts to do so. Although the elephant now has the strength to break the rope, he will never attempt to do so, being deterred by his past failure."

Moral :- Do not let your past failures stop you from achieving your goals.

62



A Profound Scholar

An incident which forces us to think really, what should be done to make our soul free from the birth and rebirth. Each and every person tries to find out, "who am I and when my soul will really be free?"

Once a group of learned people visited different European countries, where they were in Rome. They intended to visit Vatican church. They heard that the Pope can be seen. Fortunately the same day there was a religious seminar, so delegates of Christianity from different parts of the world were to attend the seminar. Delegates with different visitors were passing the corridor watching different antique articles. To find out delegates from the visitors a heighted Negro saint was watching and asking different person (are you Christian? coming to attend the seminar?).

A *jain* visitor was walking with a Yugoslavian delegate. The delegate was asked and the Jain visitor became excited. The saint asked him too. The Jain visitor said strongly,-"no". I'm *Jain*. The pope was 50 to 60 feet

away; he heard these words and came hurriedly to the visitor, asked him (to the *Jain*) "Sir would you mind to spend ten minutes with me?" The visitor replied affirmatively. They sat together without wasting a minute, the pope started asking regarding eatables and non - eatables. The visitor said "Sir, take a big potato and make some thousand small pieces of the same and sow them at thousand different places. You will have after considerable time a thousand plants of potatoes, if you had eaten that potatoes you would have killed thousand souls.

Then he intended to know that *Jain sadhu* and *sadhaviji mahatmas* walk on foot to each and every corner of the country. They never use any kind of vehicles. The pope didn't agree with this. He gave an example of a lonely ill *sadhu maharaj* who was alone and fell down near the center of the road. Round about there was a church. So Christian priest came there and made the *mahatma* to sit. The priest came to know that the sadhu *mahatma* wanted to go to an *upashraya*. The priest contacted the trustees of the *Upashraya*. Some people came in car and took the *mahatma* with them by car, because the *mahatma* was totally unable to walk. The entire incident was recorded and was sent to the pope. The pope told the Jain visitor, If you want to see, i have a recorded incident and these shows that jain *mahatma* use vehicles. The *Jain* visitor strongly denied this, and he told the pope, If somehow or

the other you were lost in amazon's forest and you couldn't find a single person there for two three days, and you are totally unable to walk.

If you are *thirsty*, hungry and having physical illness, what would you do? If a dirty Negro happened to come, will you not request him for help? The pope didn't answer and only smiled. Then the pope offered the *Jain* visitor to be Christian and stay with him luxuriously. The *Jain* visitor asked the pope "sir, can I be *Christ* ? The pope excited and said 'No'. Again the jain asked him, can you be *Christ".* The pope said "how can I be *Christ* ?" so the jain visitor told him "sir, then be jain, if you follow the shown path by the Lord *'MAHAVEER'* you can be *'TEERTHANKAR'* like Him.

After the unusual talk they parted. (This is the story of an ideal person named *Natubhai R. Shah* from Baroda- Nizampura India. ph no 9427475361 who has proposed the English learning course in Michigan USA after a research of six years from 1967 to 1972 and is now being sold by that university to more than 4 countries nearly in crores of rupees. This Natubhai taught to more than thousands of Monks and Nuns including His holiness *P.P RATNASUNDARSOOREESWARJI* recently, free of cost. The person who visited Vetican in 2011 A.D with his learned friends, he was nobody else but profound scholar Natubhai himself.)

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